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POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS APPARENTLY ARE DECIDEDLY EXPENSIVE

The Beauharnois exposure in which two Alberta members of the Legislature, Mr. J. J. Gardiner and E. J. Garland, were quite active has thrown quite a good light on election campaign funds.

The Toronto Globe says: "According to men of experience in running political campaigns, such a federal election costs a party approximately \$1,500,000, making total costs from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. This information is contained in a despatch from The Globe's Ottawa correspondent as a side-light on campaign contributions from the Beauharnois corporation.

The average citizen, doubtless, will be astonished by the suggestion that it requires no more money to tell him how to vote than to influence the "free and independent elector" in his own behalf.

The taxpayers meet the expense of the machinery supposed to be necessary, the printing of voters' lists and ballots, the renting of voting quarters, the pay of returning officers and assistants, and clerical help needed to canvass the returns. Everything is thus provided for by the state, when a party is asked to record his choice of candidates and pass on the issues involved.

The parties, however, believe it necessary to hire halls and distribute literature to prove to the voters that they cannot make up their minds without help, to engage workers to get the voters to the polls, and employ scrutineers to watch one another and guard against illegal balloting. This request for the convictions of the electors and their franchise-privileges—the fear of each party that the other will violate the law—is the excuse for collecting and spending vast sums of money. The parties are convinced they cannot trust the electors to look after themselves and they cannot trust one another to do so. Individuals and corporations are called upon to supply funds to meet the emergency.

This is the view of the party organizations. What do the voters themselves think about it? By the way, the "free and independent elector" is not a very common sight in the political arena, to see that they do their duty to themselves on election day, to make sure that citizens are not involved in crooked balloting!

It is a common political complaint that a candidate has been "bought" by the money he has had to spend. The money is generally recognized. The fact that the millions are spent, in addition, that needed for the legitimate machinery provided by law, is an amusing commentary on the state to which we are drifting. It is something which the honest elector should give sober thought.

HON. R. B. BENNETT FELT HIS HONOR IMPUGNED

The passionate sincerity with which Mr. Bennett revolved the proposed new Income tax schedules was bound to arouse a good deal of sympathy throughout the country irrespective of party considerations. Two of Mr. Bennett's opponents, Messrs. Lita and Gordon had stated publicly that the new schedules would reduce Mr. Bennett's salary, and his wealth, by 25 per cent. of the tax, income tax, and that under the new assessment Mr. Bennett's personal savings would be \$25,000. To make it perfectly clear that these assertions against his personal motives were false, Mr. Bennett wiped out the proposed changes, which again only he had not seen before he presented them to the House, with a stroke of his pen.

His friends might say about it: "The Premier felt his honor was impugned, he deleted the tax schedule irrespective of any merit it may have contained. With his friends in the Opposition in the process of vindicating his own integrity, nothing but sympathy could be felt. When a firm stand has to be taken on a personal matter, Mr. Bennett has already shown he is very able to assert himself."

—Winnipeg Free Press

BASSANO PEOPLE PLEADED WITH IRIGATION RESULTS

A few days ago the town of Bassano was being warmly congratulated by all and sundry for her enterprise in installing an irrigation system designed to water the gardens, trees and lawns.

Bassano people joined in the congratulations and complimented the people of Strathmore for their step they had taken.

In the matter of irrigation, Bassano feels like a big brother to Strathmore. We have our own irrigation system that has been in operation for a number of years and proven successful. We have seen what irrigation will do in the way of beautifying the town and enabling the citizens to have a more comfortable life.

By means of our irrigation system, we have a swimming pool, the town streets with trees, and beautiful scenery.

The building of our irrigation system was financed by money which was raised by community effort. It is a splendid example to the enterprise and progressive spirit which prevails in Bassano.

We feel proud of it. Although it has been in operation only four years, our irrigation system has proved of great benefit in making a beautiful town. In four years more the improvement will be even more noticeable.

—Bassano Mail

BEAUHARNOIS GIVES INTERESTING LIGHT ON DEVELOPMENTS

Continued from Front Page
There is a certain amount of grime and mud, and commendable cleanliness, in Mr. Beauharnois's exposure. "It was most distasteful to me," he said, "I purposely did not try to keep an exact record of the payments." In answer to a question as to whether the progressive party got anything, he replied: "The money, but we seem to have forgotten Mr. Gardiner, or he forgot it."

Whether the parties went after the money or whether it was tendered them voluntarily matters little. Now it is a point of great importance which party received the larger amount, unless the following story in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post, told by the late Miss Longworth, may enlighten.

It was election day in one of the border towns in Ohio, and a negro woman came in to vote, bringing along his three sons.

"Hello, Sam," said a man who knew the farmer. "What's on your mind?"

"The fat lookin' runt to see how's election."

Later in the afternoon the same man met the negro again. "Voted yet?" he asked.

"Voted. I've voted and my boys, they voted."

"How did you vote?" "Well, now, it's hell that I met a Republican, and he gave me ten dollars to vote his ticket, and I voted a Democrat, and he gave me seven dollars to vote for him. So I voted for the Democrat."

"What for? The Republican gave you the most money."

"Voted, that's the pint. I voted for them Democrats because they was less corrupt."

garding campaign funds should have an impressive effect upon the electorate, if there is any doubt as to the sincerity of the disclosure. The disclosure, however, there is. Under the party system of choosing Parliamentary representatives, the key to the situation is at the nomination conventions. Apparently the rescue from the depths to which we have fallen, when contributions from corporations seeking favors are generally sought, and accepted by party organizations, must come from the people who control, or on control, the nominations, so that elected members be free men when they go to Parliament. The end must come to a system by which organizations for the benefit of members and tie themselves to corporations by accepting campaign funds.

The sensational denouncement in the Beauharnois inquiry has come toward the end of the inquiry, but the story is not complete. There is no use in attempting to believe that corporations make these campaign contributions without expecting something in return. There is no use in saying that one party is bad as another. The bad fact has come out that money was turned over to both parties. Some may be found to have been anticipated in exchange, and what was obtained.

Mr. Beauharnois said he would not have made these contributions if he had not been associated with the party. When did he expect to get in return from Ottawa? From Quebec? From Toronto? The disclosure is not conclusive. Emphatic opposition is shown as the committee discussing Provincial affairs. The Beauharnois concession was granted in Quebec, was endorsed in Ottawa. The Hydro contract in Ontario was advertised as ensuring the success of the enterprise. Knowledge of these facts is not sufficient.

The inquiry has to go the limit. It has to clear up the Quebec and the Ontario ends as well as that at Ottawa. Continuity of investigation is not with the committee of the House of Commons. A Royal Commission without delay, to start over again and get all the facts, from whatever source they are available.

The crime of good government, and the interest of the public in cleaning up, if the rights of the people are battered away in exchange for campaign funds, if this is the policy under which the people serve in power, or when seeking power—it is time for a revolution in political action.

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RURAL EDUCATION EXPERIMENTS IN THE KINDERSLEY DISTRICT

Continued from Front Page
The strenuous effort to overcome the heavy curriculum in many grades. The supervisor finds time

for them some way and gives the teacher the necessary aid in fitting their time into the scheme.

"What if visitors or authorities come along and see this work?" the children start up around it. "I have it in my very good book that the youngsters love to have up."

The speaker is one of those children who find themselves in the tiny schools of the prairie, a gentleman with generations of cultural background and the stamp of an old world university. A man sensitive to finer values, beating out the conception of life work in this rural community.

"The school belongs to the children," he gently argues the supervisor. "If they love to have their work up at it, they are the first consideration."

The sensitive face of the teacher lights up. He has found a friend and ally who will appreciate the work which has gone ahead of the race. She will understand the touch of poetry that in the school readers, the bit of a story of great beauty, the bit of a story of great beauty, the bit of a story of great beauty.

Pupils in the Kindersley area, however, are sure that their field days are the finest thing that has happened in a long while. All at once it seems like Strathmore school year is transformed into a "practice field." The girls have consultations about softball and the boys about baseball. There are things called "language" and consultations about the "big game." The trustees have got an idea somewhere that they might help. So one or two evenings a week they get out some of the men of the neighborhood to help "Our School" with the games.

"We're going to be awfully homesome when holidays come," remarked one of the softballers.

"I dread it," commented her mother, "the children are going to miss school as."

"District C and G— and X— girls all wish to play," suggested Miss Grant. "Why not go ahead and have a holiday league?"

"Oh, Miss Grant, you fix it up. That will be fine."

"I had been interested in the school ever since we settled here," one of the mothers told us. "Our children were going to school all the time and so we always had it in our minds. Most the years my husband has been out of the trustees. We have had good fair and middle teachers, but never such a progress as this. Mrs. Grant— some way put a spirit into everything. Its just that; I think with every child, head and teachers and children and we folk that think about it when we're washing up—a new spirit, a new faith and hope."

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